

REMARKS

Claims 49-81 were pending. Claims 50, 61, and 72 have been cancelled in the present amendment. Claims 49, 51-56, 58, 59, 60, 62-67, 70-71, and 73-78 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 49, 51-60, 62-71, and 73-81 remain pending in the captioned case.

In the present Office Action, claims 55 and 58 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of antecedent basis. In view of the amendments, these objections are believed overcome. In addition, claims 49, 52-60, 63-71, and 74-81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,018 (Gooderum) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,716 (Sharma). Claims 50, 51, 61, 62, 72, and 73 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 49, 60, and 71 to include the subject matter of claims 50, 61, and 72, respectively. Accordingly, all claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

No fees are believed necessary; however, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-59000/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

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